

the purpose of receiving a statement in writing of all the debts, claims and demands, of creditors, against the estate of the said John Mitchell, and of the amount, nature, and quality thereof; and having so fixed upon such day, the said trustees shall immediately cause public notice to be given of their intentions to meet at such time and place for the purposes aforesaid, and shall cause advertisements thereof to be set up at the most public places in their and the adjoining counties, and to be printed in the Maryland and Delaware Gazettes, at least for the space of thirty days before such intended meeting; and the said trustees, or a major part of them, shall accordingly attend at such time and place, and then and there receive from the creditors of the said John Mitchell respectively, a statement of their debts and claims, and of the amount, nature, and quality thereof, on the oath or affirmation of the parties; and the said trustees, or a major part of them, shall diligently inquire after the whole real estate of the said John Mitchell, lying and being in the counties of Somerset and Worcester aforesaid, or elsewhere in this state, and shall take the possession, charge, and management thereof, and within the space of six weeks after the time herein before intended for the meeting of the said trustees, they shall certify to the chancellor a regular statement, subscribed by them, of the real property aforesaid of the said John Mitchell, and of the particulars thereof as to buildings and improvements, and the quantity, quality and situation, of the lands, and also of the names, debts, claims and demands, of the respective creditors, according to the document thereof furnished by each; and such statement shall be filed with the register of the court of chancery, and safely kept for the inspection and examination of the parties concerned.

IV. And be it enacted, That the chancellor shall thereupon direct a public sale of the said real property to be made by the said trustees, in such lots, parcels or proportions, and at such respective times and places, and upon such public notice, terms and credit, and in other respects in such manner as he shall think most advantageous for the interest of the creditors and this state, and most proper for securing a punctual payment of the purchase money, and shall certify such directions to the said trustees, who shall and they are hereby required to govern themselves according to the tenor thereof; and the said trustees shall return a particular account of their proceedings at such sales to the said chancellor, as soon thereafter as conveniently may be, stating the several lots or parcels of land sold, and to whom, the amount of each, the time of payment, and the security given, and shall subscribe the same; and any deed or deeds given by the said trustees, or a major part of them, as such, to any purchaser or purchasers of the said property, or any part thereof, upon a fair sale made pursuant to this act, after acknowledgment and enrolment thereof according to law, shall be valid and available to transfer and confirm such property to the said purchaser or purchasers in fee-simple, in like manner as if the same had been sold and conveyed by the said John Mitchell in his life-time, or secured by the state in virtue of a patent grounded on the escheat.

Chancellor to direct a public sale, &c.

V. And be it further enacted, That the said chancellor, upon examination of the said statement and account, shall direct the proportion and order of payment according to the claims of the respective creditors, and a course of distribution, having also a just regard to debts or judgments, by which such property may be bound, and to their nature and value; and if any creditors shall elect to take the bonds of the purchasers to the amount of their respective claims in discharge thereof, (if the sale of the said property shall be on credit,) it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or a major part of them, to assign so much thereof as shall be sufficient, or otherwise the claims of such creditors shall remain postponed until the payment of the money by the respective purchasers of the said property.

To direct the proportion, &c.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the said chancellor shall direct a summary account of the said debts and claims, and of the said sales, to be made out by the register, and certified to the treasurer of the eastern shore, who shall thereupon raise an account against the said trustees, and superintend the collection of

And to direct a summary account to be made out, &c.